

THE BLACKWATER CURRENT

September 06– January 07

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THE
BLACKWATER
CURRENT
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strictions.

Exclusive....Larry the "Queen" Snake... Live (yes, that's correct)

Larry: Good after noon chaps! Today I shall be interviewing myself. It's truly exciting. So, I have good news and bad news. The good news first, of course. The good news is the Nature Zone recently had a not-so-extreme makeover for those of you who haven't seen it. We also have two new friends. I won't tell ya more; I don't want to spoil it. You'll just have to see for yourself.

Larry (me again): Ahem...Now for the bad news. Well, it's not really bad news; it's more along the lines of horribly wrong and disturbing news. Well anyway, I went for my check-up a while ago right> and I got some surprising news. It turns out that I'm a female! I'll give you a minute to take that in.

Larry (once more): Me, a girl? That's exactly what I said. Yep, Dan the Snake Doctor Dude Person guy checked me and announced that I was not a football player but a cheerleader. They also found eggs in my cage but that's not really important. So it's out with the sports and in with the cooking I suppose. But on with the interview, I'm sure you have lots of questions.

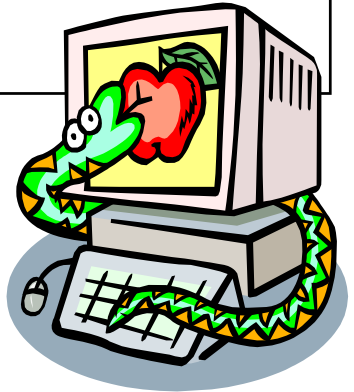
L a r r y
(still me): Oh, yes I sure do. We would like to know how the other animals reacted to this *surprising* news.

L a r r y
(yep): Well I can't say they weren't shaken. Poor Max looked like he died from shock. But I suppose opossums are supposed to play dead. But I did get a good laugh when old loudmouth fell off her perch.

Larry (not confused are you?): Anyone you would like to make a shout out to?

Larry (bored yet?): Yes, I would like to apologize to all of you female snakes out there that I made moves on. Especially you baby (you know who you are). But as for you males out there, you better watch out cuz I'm coming! You too Zingo or whatever your name was.

Larry (last one I promise): Well that's all we have for today. See ya kids. Tune in next week for more fun.



The Nature Zone Summer Volunteers Rock!!!

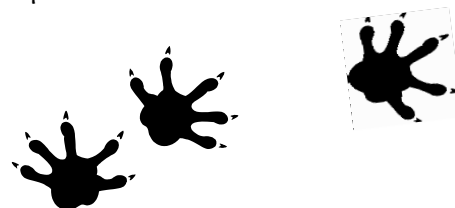
This summer a wonderful band of volunteers had brightened our Nature Center in so many ways! We just want to say thank you to Sue Matherly, Jessica Rodgers, Gigi Sweeney, Sharon Jennings, Janice & Rebecca Sinoski, Lorry Risinger, Jo Evans, Michelle Burnett & Timberlake Youth group, Katie Stulle, Madison Wiley, Chuck Garrar, Chris Webb, Ms. Lauren Bifulco & Jefferson Forest Art Club, who created a magnificent mural of Virginia's provinces! Oh and thank you, our anonymous folks who did laundry and cleaned The Zone!



Join The Creature Comforts Club

Become a part of the Creature Comforts Club by making a contribution that will help us to add to the comfort of the creatures in the Nature Zone. As a member, you will receive:

- ☺ a certificate of sponsorship
- ☺ an animal fact sheet
- ☺ a laminated "Critter Card" with a photo of the sponsored animal
- ☺ Expression of Gratitude in The Blackwater Current
- ☺ A FREE pass to the popular Nature Zone Tour (valued at \$2.00)



Sponsor more than one critter and see how many critter cards you can collect! And remember we have new critters: Max, the Opossum, Packy, the Sugar Glider; Prickles Sonic, the Hedgehog; Zinger, the Corn Snake; and Tomato, the Giant Millipede. Join Today!

Volunteer Update: Summer 2006

Whew...it's HOT out there! But this sweltering dose of sunshine was no match for our super-hero volunteers! Let's take a peek at what they were up to while the rest of us sipped lemonade and stuck our tootsies in the sand.....

Adopt-A-Trail'ers: Lee Spradlin and the Brookville-Timberlake Lions Club, Donna Stuart's Girl Scout Troop 2041, Deb Trum's Girl Scout Troop 134, and the Allmon family didn't let 100-degree temps stop them from sprucing up their trail sections! Thanks, y'all!

The Nature Nerds were awfully busy settling into our new digs this summer, so we have to especially thank the following **Program Volunteers** for helping us run the show: **Jessica Rodgers** (for her awesome Bluebirds program); and **Elizabeth Ford** (for partnering with Oliver at Kid's Day at the Mall)! Mucho thanks, ladies!

Meanwhile, amidst all of the non-stop summer action, the Nature Zone critters had to be taken care of; special thanks to **Animal Feeders Jon Flinchum, the Olmsteads, the Newmans, Ashley Hildreth, Kim Blair, Amanda Blair, and the Reams** for their tender loving animal care!

We couldn't have made it through the grueling summer program schedule without the much-appreciated help of our dedicated band of **Teen Naturalists: Ashley Hildreth, Dan Tucker; Jillian Gogel, Amanda Blair, Sara and Emilie Driscoll and Tyler Inge**. Great job, guys!!

And special thanks go out to the life-savers who rescued our short-staffed Saturdays at the Nature Zone: **Kim Blair and Amanda Blair, Suzen Flinchum and Jon Flinchum** held down the fort and made it possible for folks to thoroughly enjoy their visits to the 'Zone. You guys rawk!!

NATURE NEXT: A Calendar of Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

Animal Watch Series: Monarch Watch (ages 8 & up). Activity # 51003.302. Orientation: Thursday 9/14, 7-8pm. Field dates at Old City Cemetery: Saturday 9/16, 12noon-2pm; Saturday 10/7, 1-3pm. Field dates at Westminster-Canterbury: Saturday 9/23, 2-4pm; Saturday 10/14, 12noon-2pm. At the orientation, learn about lives of Monarchs and how to safely apply monitoring stickers. Saturday fieldwork dates, monarchs will be tagged. Cost includes tags and butterfly net. Register by 9/7. \$12.00 city resident; \$18.00 non-city residents.

Wee Wild Ones: Autumn Adventurers (ages 3-5) Activity # 54003.301 Tues. 9/12, 10-11:30am. "Wee" will explore all the colors of fall through fun and games. Register by 8/29. \$5.00/child.

Bird Nerds 101: Birding for Beginners (Family): Activity # 51002.305. Fri. 9/15, 7-8pm. NEW informal workshop on easy, helpful tips on identifying our feathered friends. Register by 9/8. \$7.00/person.



GIRL SCOUTS®

Cadettes: All About Plants: Activity # (56003.304). Sat. 9/16 from 9am- 12pm. Girl Scouts will earn this IP as they learn about plant life processes. This "down & dirty" hands-on activity will be held at Lynchburg Grows' working greenhouses. Meet at Lynchburg Grows, Inc. 1339 Englewood St. Lynchburg, VA 24501. \$7.00/scout

****Unless noted, all programs are held at The Nature Zone.**

NATURE NEXT: A Calendar of Upcoming Events

Homeschool Reptiles and Amphibians (ages 8 to 12): Activity # 52007.301. Wed. 9/20, 1-3pm. Hands-on, lively journey into the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians. Register by 9/13. \$5.00/person.

Bird Nerd Hikes (Family): From 8-10am. A fun, casual hike to check out local bird action! Register one week in advance. \$3.00/ person.
Sat. 9/16 (Activity # 51002.301) Peaksview Park
Sat. 9/30 (Activity # 51002.302) Parkway
Sat. 10/14 (Activity # 51002.303) Percival's Island
Sat. 10/28 (Activity # 51002.304) Parkway

Nature Zone Tours (Family): from 5-6pm. During this hands-on guided tour you'll meet our Critters up close and personal. Register by one week before each tour date. \$2.00/person

Friday 9/22 (Activity # 53007.302)
Friday 10/27 (Activity # 53007.303)
Friday 11/17 (Activity # 53007.304)
Friday 12/15 (Activity # 53007.305)

Fall Equinox Campfire (family) Activity # 51001.303. Fri. 9/22, 7-9pm. Listen to tall tales, enjoy the fire and celebrate autumn! Bring a blanket and dress warmly. Register by 9/15. \$5.00/person.

They Love the Nightlife – Opossums! (Family): Activity # 51003.301. Tues. 9/26, 7-8pm. Learn about Max the Opossum and the fascinating habits of these magnificent marsupials. Register by 9/19. \$2.00/ person.



Brownie Scout: Butterflies Try-It Activity # 56003.301. Fri. 9/29, 4:30-6pm. Brownies can earn this fun try-it at the Old City Cemetery's Lotus Pond. Register by 9/22. \$7.00/ (includes badge).

OCTOBER

Wee Wild Ones: Creepy Crawlies (ages 3-5): Activity #54003.302. Tues. 10/10, 10-11:30am. What creeps, crawls and goes bump in the night? Register by 9/26. \$5.00/ child.



Brownies and Junior scouts Friends of Horses and Horse Fan: Tues. 10/10 (Activity # 56003.303) & Wed. 10/18 (Activity # 56003.306). Badges earned at Northwind Stables! 6-8pm. Register by 10/3. \$13.00/scout (includes badge).

Beautiful Bugs ((Family): Activity # 55001.320. Fri. 10/13, 5-6pm. Fun and informative program about the good, bad and ugly. Register by 10/6. \$5.00/person.

Homeschool Fall Fun Hike (ages 8 to 12) Activity # 52007.302. Wed. 10/18, 10am-12pm. Discover the many layers of this ecosystem as we explore along the trail. Register by 10/11. \$5.00/person.

Halloween Campfire (Family): Activity # 51001.301. Fri. 10/20, 7-9pm. Who's afraid of the big, bad werewolf? Join us for this popular, standing room only campfire event! Bring a blanket and dress for

weather. Register by 10/13. \$5.00/person.

They Love the Nightlife – Hedgehogs! (Family) Activity # 51003.303. Tues. 10/24, 7-8pm. Meet Prickles, the hedgehog, as we spend the evening learning all about these fascinating insectivores. Register by 10/17. \$2.00/person.

Herp Hunters (Family) Activity # 51003.308. Sat. 10/28, 11am-12 pm. With Dan, the Reptile man. See Teen Naturalist Dan Tucker's amazing scaly, spectacular animal friends during this popular program! Register by 10/20. \$2.00/person.

NOVEMBER

Girl Scouts "Women's Careers & Stories": Activity # 56003.309. Wed. 11/1 from 6-8 pm. At the Aviary. Brownie and Junior Scouts will meet three women with unique, super-cool careers during this open discussion forum! Register by 10/25. \$7.00/scout (includes badge).

Brownie Scout Badge Workshop Activity # 56003.302. Sat. 11/11, 1-5pm. Girls will earn "Take a Hike" and "Fun in the Woods" Try-Its...all in one afternoon. Dress for the weather. Register by 11/4. \$12.00 city resident; \$18.00 non-resident (includes badges).

Wee Wild Ones: Naughty Night Creatures (ages 3-5) Activity # 54003.303 Tues. 11/14, 10-11:30am. What is a preschooler to do with those playful night creatures? Register by 10/31. \$5.00/child.

They Love The Nightlife – Flying Squirrels! (Family) Activity # 51003.305. Tues. 11/14, 7-8pm. You'll learn and meet one or two during this fun nocturnal animal feature. Build a flying squirrel box to take home! Register by 11/7. \$8.00/person (includes box materials).

DECEMBER

They Love the Nightlife – Snakes! (Family): Activity # 51003.306. Tues. 12/5, 7-8pm. Check out these fascinating and often misunderstood animals up close and personal during this program on nocturnal animals. Register by 11/28. \$2.00/person.

Winter Solstice Celebration ((Family): Activity # 51001.302. Fri. 12/8, 7-9pm. Bundle up and join us at Camp Kum-Ba-Yah as we celebrate the season of lights with crafts, food and more! Event will be held if rain (...snow?) Register by 12/1. \$5.00/person.

Wee Wild Ones: Food for the Animals (ages 3-5): Activity # 54003.304. Tues. 12/12, 10-11:30am. Preschoolers will help feed the wildlife for Christmas! Register by 11/28. \$5.00/ child.

JANUARY

Owl Moon Hike((Family): Activity # 51002.101. Fri. 1/19/2007, 7-9pm. Join us at Camp Kum-Ba-Yah for some frosty, feathered evening of fun activities followed by a twilight hike. Register by 1/12/07. \$5.00/ person.

NATURALIST ADVENTURE PROGRAM LYNCHBURG PARKS & RECREATION

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Our mission is to promote awareness and appreciation of the abundant natural resources available in the Lynchburg area through education, interpretation, and family- oriented outdoor activities.

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We're on the Web!
[Http://www.lynchburgva.gov/parksandrec](http://www.lynchburgva.gov/parksandrec)

HIKING & BIKING TRAILS OF BLACKWATER CREEK NATURAL AREA

